

Appl. No. 09/512,629
Amdt. Dated June 24, 2004
Reply to Office action of March 24, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P12297-US1
EUS/J/P/04-2024

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Amendments

Claims 9, 11 and 13 have been amended and claims 10 and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 9, 11, 13 and 15-30 remain pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 17-30.

The Examiner also objected to claims 10-13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have amended independent claim 9 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 10 and 12. Accordingly, claim 9 is now allowable. Furthermore, whereas claims 11, 13 and 15-16 are dependent from claim 1, and include the limitations thereof, those claims are also now allowable.

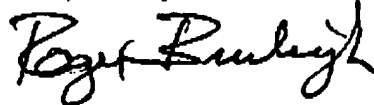
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 9, 11, 13 and 15-30.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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